

DISCUSSION

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Earl Browder, General Secretary of the C.P. U.S.A. and Guest Speaker at Canadian Communist Convention

Tim Buck Hits Out at Vigilante Proposal

Toronto, Ont.—Tim Buck, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Canada, has issued the following statement to the Canadian Press in regard to the announcement that Earl Browder, Communist presidential candidate in the last U. S. election, will be a guest speaker at the public opening session of the Eighth Dominion Communist Convention at the Mutual street Arena, Toronto, on the evening of October 8.

"It has been brought to my attention that the Financial Post in its issue of June 26 protests against permission being granted to Earl Browder for entry into Canada and expresses indignation that he should have been able on past occasions to address Canadian audiences.

"It would be indeed a poor advertisement for Canada if the reactionary advice of the 'Financial Post' were to be followed by the government.

"Nation-wide publicity was afforded to vigilante efforts to prevent Earl Browder from holding a public meeting in Terra Haute, Indiana, during his presidential campaign. At that time the majority of Canadian newspapers pointed out the futility and essentially reactionary nature of such attempts to stifle the right of free speech.

"Canada is a democratic country. The sentiments of our people were well expressed by the general approval and jubilation which greeted the repeal of Section 98 of the Criminal Code by the present Government.

"We are now told that Canadians who can listen to Earl Browder regularly by tuning in an American radio station during one of his frequent coast-to-coast hook-up broadcasts should be prevented by an act of Government vigilanteism from greeting him in person.

"I am hopeful that the Government has sufficient respect for the feelings of the vast majority of Canadians not to be swayed by advice so obviously opposed to democratic principles.

"Mr. Earl Browder, who is General Secretary of the Communist Party of the U.S.A., is a keen student and a deep thinker on social and political affairs. That there is great public interest about his views is shown by the fact that more than 60,000 copies of his book 'What is Communism' have already been sold. He will, I am sure, receive a warm and friendly welcome in Toronto during his coming visit."

Branch Wants Assessment Changed

Branch 16 of the Central Vancouver Section of the Communist Party of Canada (secretary: Stella McMaster) has sent in the following resolutions for the Dominion Convention.

Resolution on Assessments

Whereas:

The Congress assessment of 50 cents for unemployed and \$1 for employed members, is unfairly applied in that it does not proportionately consider the ability for payment of all members.

Therefore be it resolved:

That in the future all assessments be levied in the same ratio as dues payments.

Resolution on Dues

Whereas:

The dues assessments do not fairly represent the ability to pay.

Therefore be it resolved:

That the dues assessments be increased as follows: dues on earnings over \$20 and under \$25 per week be increased from 25 cents to 30 cents per week; earnings under \$30 per week be increased from 45 cents to 55 cents per week; earnings under \$40 per week be increased from 45 cents to \$1 per week; earnings over \$40 per week be increased from 75 cents to \$2 per week.

Resolution Suggests Careful Selection Convention Dates

Unit 1 of the Simms Section, Saskatchewan (Charles McKenzie, secretary) has sent in the following resolution for the Dominion convention:

Whereas:

Many farmers would like to be present at Party conferences and conventions;

Whereas:

This is impossible for prairie farmers when a Convention is held at the beginning of October, the busiest period of the crop year.

Whereas:

Farm slack periods on the prairies are approximately between July 15 to August 15 and from October 30 to April 1.

Therefore be it resolved:

That dates of all important conferences and conventions be set where at all possible so that all classes of workers may attend, full consideration and equal privileges being given to other workers.

Convention Opening Evening of Oct. 8th; Preparation Speeded

Toronto, Ont.—The night of Friday, October 8 is the date that many thousands in this city are jostling down as "reserved", refusing all other appointments or engagements.

That is the date on which the first session of the Dominion Convention of the Communist Party of Canada will be held. This opening session is a public session, a general invitation having been extended to all to be present.

The first session will be held in the Mutual street Arena and the first 13,000 to enter when doors open at 7 p.m. will get the available seats.

With only a month left before the Convention opens the Convention Arrangements Committee is now speeding up all its plans and activities to assure the most successful and outstanding convention ever held by any section of the Labor movement.

Large-scale publicity is planned in addition to posters, handbills, tickets, personal letters and radio flashes, large bill boards at many busy street corners have been booked to advertise the opening and press releases will be regularly issued to 300 daily and weekly newspapers.

Sessions in Masonic Temple

Following the first public session at which Tim Buck, General Secretary of the Communist Party, will give a keenly awaited report on "The Road Ahead for Canada" and Earl Browder, General Secre-

tary of the Communist Party of the United States, will be a guest speaker, the Convention sessions will be held in the Masonic Temple.

This Convention, the Eighth in the history of the Party, assumes particular importances because it is the first Dominion Convention to be held since the release of the leaders of the Communist Party and the repeal of Section 98 of the Criminal Code.

Great progress made by the Party and reflected both in increased membership and influence in all provinces will be reported only in order to arrive at decisions which will permit still more rapid growth in the near future.

In addition to the report by Tim Buck which will cover the main political problems of today, special reports will be given on the following points:

Problems of Canadian Youth
French Canada Awakens
The Daily Clarion: People's Tribune.

About Our Paper

By W. Rigby
Editor, DISCUSSION

SINCE our last issue letters and articles have continued to arrive in a steady and welcome stream. British Columbia, and in particular in B. C. our women comrades in Vancouver, take the lead in the number of contributions to DISCUSSION.

In addition to the long list of contributors given in our last issue we have on hand at the moment letters and articles from the following:

British Columbia
Jean Bird, Vancouver.
Mary Johnson, Vancouver.
Violet Kinloch, Vancouver.
Charlotte Leslie, Vancouver.
S. Romack, Vancouver.
G. S. Sheard, Vancouver.
Sid Zlotnik, Vancouver.

Alberta
W. T. Borsanyi, St. Pauls.
Saskatchewan
Charles McKenzie, Simms.

Ontario
E. Howell, Toronto.
C. Smith, Toronto.

Unit 3, Ward 7, Toronto.
New Brunswick
J. B. Mortimer, Sackville.

The following have sent in opinions since the last issue on the list of organizational questions printed in our first number:

Unit 4, Centre Section, Vancouver.

Branch 16, Centre Section, Vancouver.

Raymour Branch 2, Grandview Section, Vancouver, (See, J. Watts).

Highland Park Branch, Edmonton (See, E. Somers).

East Edmonton Branch, Man. Special Unit 1, Ward 5, Winnipeg.

Our next issue will contain a special review of the many opinions expressed on these organizational questions and an article summarizing the discussion.

Add to the fore-board of payments for DISCUSSION since our last issue:

British Columbia and Nova Scotia—paid in full;

Timmins—paid for first issue.

Alberta, Manitoba, Sudbury, Port Arthur, Quebec have still to make the first hit and we are already in the fifth innings—or rather issue.

One more issue of DISCUSSION will be printed before the delegates leave for our historic Eighth Dominion Convention. We would be glad to receive opinions about the continuation of DISCUSSION after the convention.

Working in Women's Clubs

ON many occasions we have organizations on the basis of a discussed the developing programme of immediate of new forms of organization needs.

The clubs that we have struggle for the economic needs. We in Saskatchewan mentioned are rural clubs; believe we have the forms of their members are women organization necessary for this who are feeling the pinch of purpose — the Homemakers' crisis, drought, low prices clubs (of which there are 165 for farm products etc. They in the province), the Commu could be influenced to see that unity clubs, Women's Welfare matter of higher relief, re- clubs, etc.; but we would habituation of the women for farm men who will give a lead towards, higher prices for farm and assist in developing new produce, are matters that vital forms of activity in these only affect them and that their

By
**FLORENCE
THEODOR**
(Regina)

present organizations are the channels through which they can work for better conditions.

It is interesting to note that farm women are not only housewives, but actual producers. They raise poultry and other live stock; they market butter, eggs and cream.

Organizational Difficulties

Due to their isolation and the difficulties in the way of transportation, the women in the rural areas do not meet more often than once a month. For this reason they are organized largely on a social and homecraft basis. We can not improve this form of organization as it meets the requirements of the women.

When they meet once a month it seems natural that they should want to discuss the things that relate to their home life — how they have used up the old silk underwear and silk stockings; how they have used up their rug and cushion tops; how the poultry is thriving, and at what sacrificial prices they had to dispose of the last lot of chickens. These are basic subjects and as such should be subjects indeed if we attempted to disturb their present form of organization.

These women are also discussing relief; they are comparing the relief schedules of the rural municipalities with those of the cities; they are wondering what they are going to do without vegetables this winter; they are discussing the many problems incidental to the drought. But at the present time they are discussing these questions in a spirit of quiet resignation to things that must be.

The progressive women in these organizations who realize that the women should start a movement, are too timid to suggest "bold action" on the part of the women, and too diffident to undertake to lead them in such action. Fear of discrimination in matters of relief is also a deterrent to action on the part of many of the women. However, it is not impossible to arouse the women to take action on questions affecting their welfare. In one of the municipalities in the south there is discontent in the ranks of the women in connection with the coal that they are forced to use in the winter. The municipal council is compelled to use lignite for all purposes. The women object to using this kind of coal in the cookstoves, but until recently had taken no concerted action to remedy this grievance. A short discussion with a few of the women was sufficient to arouse them and a committee is now working to get the women together to take up this issue with the municipal council.

Woman and Peace

The question of peace is also one that interests the women in the rural areas, and with progressive leadership much could be done to rally the women for good and effective work in the peace movement. This sentiment for peace and international goodwill was, for example, expressed in a quilt that was displayed at the Homemakers' convention in Theodora, last June, on which was worked in silk the emblems of the nations of the world, and a verse on peace. While we could have wished that the Swastika had not been used as the emblem of the great German people, we can readily appreciate the sentiment for peace and international goodwill that was embodied in that bit of needlework.

For improving the home and community life of the people, that they must encourage the building of these organizations and influence their wives to work in them.

The progressive women in the rural districts also must be convinced to change their own attitude towards the organizations and to work to make them effective forces in the communities. Our party women must become members of these organizations, discuss the actual needs of the women and suggest the steps that should be taken to meet the problems that come up for discussion.

The entire party membership should discuss women's work in the various localities, and assist in creating a desire in the women to make these organizations real expressions of their needs.

Break Down Prejudices

What is needed to draw these organizations into the movement for peace and to make them effective instruments of struggle for the immediate needs of the people? In the first place we must start an educational campaign among our male population in order to convince them that these women's organizations are of great importance in the communities; that they are not just "pink tea" organizations; that they do not function merely for the purpose of providing recreation for the women, but that they meet a vital need of the women and can become the instruments

City Organization

In our opinion the women's organizations in the cities could take on some of the aspects of the rural clubs which were most in progress and many women are joining up.

Particular attention must be paid to the building of the women's sections of the United Farmers of Canada, especially in those districts where a revival of the U.F.C. is proceeding apace. In the Willow bank constituency this movement is progressing and many women are joining up.

SEE PAGE THREE COL. ONE

I Have Changed My Mind About Women's Branches

By **H. Mathieson**
(Vancouver)

At one time, I was opposed to the building of separate women's branches in our Party, but after carefully watching the slow development of our Party women in our units for the last two years, I have changed my mind.

The superior political knowledge of the men over-awes them to withdraw into themselves and eventually to lose all interest. They became more than ever convinced, that the task of becoming an active party member, with a clear knowledge of our Party's aims, requires altogether too much mental and physical effort and therefore quite beyond their capabilities. This wrong idea is brought about by the fact that a new woman member cannot find expression on her own level in our

mixed Party units. If we wish to hold and develop our new women members, we must consider all these facts.

In our women's branches a system of elementary education must be carried on: firstly in relation to woman's own position in society and what part she can play to help remedy these ills, gradually leading up to the complex system of capitalism under which we live, and imbuing in her a pride in the great World Communist Party and what our Party stands for. If this basis is provided we will be able to interest her further in political life, an understanding of the trade union movement and the great part that she, a woman, can play in the struggle for the birth of a new Socialist system of society. By this method we can eliminate for ever this unhealthy, inferiority complex which so many of our women possess.

We Need Women's Branches

By **L. M. Stoneman**
(Vancouver)

Are women being recruited as rapidly as they should be? If not, what special forms would improve recruiting? In building our branches should we have special branches for women, meeting at suitable hours, special arrangements for the care of children etc? How can we improve our branches to attract, develop and hold women members?

At present fluctuation of our membership of women is far above the average. We suffer whenever we lose contact with our women. We notice this quite plainly in the Mother's Council in Vancouver, having failed several times to get a functioning fraction. The result shows in certain reactionary tendencies, as for example, failure to understand the necessity to work for Spain.

There is a good deal to be said for the idea of special women's branches. The sexes would not be segregated as the present policy would maintain the sam of recruiting

women directly into the mixed branch but the special would be made up of women who by themselves. Women in such a branch should not join the Party but cannot come with their husbands until the children are older or for other reasons. We must face the fact that so many of our women are timid and these special branches would prove a better training ground. The work would rest on a woman leader who should attend the mixed branch and gradually help the women to advance until they attend with the men, in the case of those with children who could be left by themselves. Women in such a branch should thoroughly understand this otherwise the idea would entail dangers which no doubt will be pointed out by other comrades.

In our section, education on woman's work and her part in the labor movement is taken once a week. The men can rather enjoy it and feel many points are raised which are new to them. Our language is still very difficult to many beginners and the organizers find it endeavor to explain difficulties in simple language.

A Successful Class For Women

By **E. Munro**
(Vancouver)

I have conducted a class of women, for a three months course of twelve lectures. This class was most successful so I think that a few hints given in this article may aid very materially in getting a larger attendance, and more enthusiastic meetings.

When the class met, the importance of women being educated along working class lines was strongly emphasized. The lectures which were issued by the Publicity and Education Department of the B.C. Provincial Executive were not discussed until the second meeting. At the first meeting the women talked on any subject which interested them personally, although I directed the conversation as close to the proper channels as possible without making them feel all embarrassed. After every meeting, I served light refreshments; this helped us all to have a real comradeship feeling. I tried to be the best of my ability to make everyone present feel important; thus, after the meeting we all felt that we had contributed something worthwhile.

At our second meeting, and throughout the course, we adhered strictly to schedule. The meeting started at 8 p.m. and adjourned at 10 p.m. A chair-

man and secretary were elected. At every lesson each woman was encouraged to express her opinion on the subject discussed.

At the end of every lecture, we devoted a half hour to current events. This was most interesting to all the women. The subjects were problems which were of interest to women generally. I made it clear, in a friendly way, that we would not waste our time in useless gossip, as this class was for educational purposes. This point is very important and must be recognized as being one of the chief reasons for the tendency of some women to air their personal grievances at such meetings.

"At the beginning the women seemed very self-conscious but that was overcome to a great extent after the first three meetings.

I found it a good plan to ask each woman to read one paragraph which we discussed. This was better than the instructor doing all the reading. The result of the class was that there are now two pupils planning to start classes of their own this season. All acknowledged that they had benefited greatly by the class.

Lastly it is very important to be "very, very, an" instructor, but also a true comrade and friend to each member. In this manner your educational classes will be well on their way to success.

Trade Union Growth in Nova Scotia Presents New Problems

By M. GETTLER
(Gloucester Bay)

ONE year after unity was achieved among the miners in Nova Scotia within the UMW, District 25, we see that the great changes which are taking place so rapidly are also changing the whole outlook of the formerly conservative elements in the local unions. Prejudice and distrust are disappearing, and the "red bogey" is losing its force. A new situation, in which our Party played a great role, has been created since the gigantic C.I.O. organizational drive swept across the American continent. On the basis of unity and by directing the main attack against the dominant reactionary Dozco, we succeeded

in establishing a better understanding of trade union policies and counteracted the efforts of the anti-unity elements who worked day and night to prevent any kind of union in the coalfields of Nova Scotia.

Particularly in Cape Breton, local politicians, ward heelers, miners with strong conservative tendencies, and the old die-hard "leftists" with their Trotskyist phrases, eyed the great unionization drive with suspicion, and at every opportunity attacked each progressive step taken by the local unions and advocated by the members of our Party. Today, as a result of our activities through this organization campaign, our aggressive policy against Dozco and against the anti-unity elements, the lead given by Party members is well taken by the rank-and-file of the miners, who support our moves on progressive lines to a greater extent than ever before.

U.M.W. Should Lead

This makes it possible to change the whole life of the local unions and to establish a permanent progressive basis for closed shop conditions in every local union in District 25, and unionization of the entire working class in the province. First and foremost we must build up the attendance at the local unions, in order that our clear and correct policy will reach those at present not attending; interest them in the trade union movement and bring them into activity. This will break down the inertia which has always been the main danger in Nova Scotia. We must fight the individual opportunists, eliminate the petty graft and those who use local unions for their personal gains.

The U.M.W. must to a greater extent be made part

of women's work. Our men (especially in the countryside), who travel around much more than the women, should discuss with progressive non-party women the issues affecting women, and try to influence them to support the struggle around these issues.

It is therefore necessary that the whole party be drawn into the task of recruiting women into the party; that the utmost attention be paid to developing leaders for the specific phase of our party work; that our women members be given every assistance from the city and constituency committees in their work in the women's field. The activities of our women members should be discussed at every branch meeting, in order to keep alive this important part of our work. Our work will be measured by the weakness or strength of our women's organizations.

of the whole trade union movement through its increased interest and activity in the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. Besides organizing the miners, the UMW should play a decisive role in helping to organize the unorganized, give full support and assistance to all newly-organized unions, give them the necessary lead and co-operation and help them to affiliate to the International Unions.

This necessitates the formation of a Nova Scotia Federation of Labor as an active body to complete the organization of the unorganized and connect the existing unions in the province in a strong united trade union movement which would defeat every attempt by reaction to lower the standard of living or worsen the bad working conditions in this province.

Trades Councils Needed

Trades and Labor Councils should be formed in every industrial town or city to have assurance that before long every worker in Nova Scotia will be organized in a union affiliated to the Trades and Labor Congress. These Councils will be able to offset possible discrimination against

newly-organized or smaller unions.

To be in a position to achieve all this our Party members must study the local problems of the trade unions and devote all their time to develop themselves to become the leaders and fighters for the rights of the people and for trade union unity. This requires in our Party the establishment of trade union committees, holding regular fraction meetings, and attending all Party meetings religiously. In these meetings we get the necessary education and training to present the correct trade union policies.

Our mistakes in the past have arisen from an underestimation of the political importance of a full discussion of trade union policies. We went to a trade union meeting and acted in a shortsighted way to the best interests of the Party. Many times our comrades disagreed in a union meeting. In future, this must not happen. There must be a better understanding among Party members. We can overcome this if we fully discuss the tasks facing us in branch or fraction meetings in a democratic manner, arrive at proposals in the best interests

of the union and carry out our decisions in a united fashion.

In this way we will be able to assure the workers of the correctness of our trade union policies, get the support of all progressive forces in the trade unions behind the program of our Party, and be looked upon as their leader in their fight for a better life and working conditions. As Comrade Lenin said: Every trade union should be a fortress against capitalism. Let us be true followers of Comrade Lenin and make the trade unions powerful centres against fascism and reaction.

It is the trade unions that will decide whether we will have socialism in this great country or whether our fascism will be allowed to come to power. Our slogan after the National Convention should be to unionize the entire working class of Canada. Success in building the Communist Party lies mainly in the trade unions. Among the many hundreds of thousands of trade union members are thousands of potential recruits whom we must bring to the Party. Let's hire them in. Our objective should be to double the membership in 1936, one recruit for each member.

Working in Women's Clubs

FROM PAGE TWO

them. There is a tendency to make our city organizations too formal, too pedantic, too "politicized." There is an inclination on the part of the more progressive women to despise the mention of "real" or social functions, to frown on any discussion that is not cultural (in a high-brow sense) or political. The result is that the interest of the average woman in the organization soon flags and it is difficult to keep up the attendance at the meetings.

New forms of activity should be developed in our city organizations along lines that will interest the women and promote discussion among them. The interests of women centre in their homes and the activities in the homes. They are more concerned about house furnishings, painted and calomine, sewing and fancy work, than they are about the front page news in the daily papers; but they could be led by easy stages from merely talking about these things and wishing for them, to struggling to obtain them. We should use our organizations for giving full and free expression to the daily problems of the women. The women must feel that by discussing their own personal problems in their organizations they will have the sympathy and backing of their sister members.

What is to be Done

In summing up we can say that what is needed to make our women's work effective are: (1) a greater number of women members in the Communist Party; (2) our women members must be developed to become leaders in their communities, and to give progressive leadership in the organizations mentioned; (3) participation of the whole party in

We Have Organized The Cloakmakers

By R. B.
(Vancouver)

UNTIL now the B.C. needle trade industry has been isolated from the rest of Canada. The trade has its own privileges because it monopolizes the B.C. market. Some few hundred coats are brought in from Eastern provinces. But mainly the B.C. market is supplied by Vancouver shops.

Not only manufacturers but also workers were isolated from the rest of Canada; only from the press could they hear that the cloakmakers in other cities were organized. Nobody seemed to have the courage to start organizational work here though conditions were surely bad enough. The manufacturers had all the privileges to hire and fire any time they felt inclined and not one worker in this city was sure that he or she had a job for the next season or the next week. Wages paid were much less than in union shops in other parts of Canada and the workers used to have frequent wage cuts.

This situation existed until the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union stepped in. As a result of the hard work of our needle trades Party members and a few

progressive workers and correct leadership by our Party District, we were able to convince the majority of the cloakmakers of the necessity of a union and of the benefits they would get from it. It took four months hard work before a local of the I.L.G.W. was organized in Vancouver. When the officials of the I.L.G.W.U., Brothers Herbst and Langer arrived in our city and started to negotiate with the manufacturers, it didn't take long before an agreement was effected between the two parties, because the manufacturers were clearly that the workers from the shops were determined to have a union.

Union Got Results

The agreements are quite satisfactory taking into consideration that it is the first time that the cloakmakers here have had a union agreement: full union control of the shops, no discrimination, time and a half for overtime, increase in wages from ten to fifteen per cent for the time workers and a solid increase for the piece-workers.

In some cases the price was doubled. For example, in one shop the workers used to get forty-five cents for a coat, and now they are getting ninety cents. The cloakmakers in

Vancouver now know the benefits of unionization.

For the first time in the history of Vancouver the cloakmakers feel that they are not alone; that they are part of a big family, the I.L.G.W. union. The leadership of the local union is developing from among the workers; very good and earnest people, as yet inexperienced but willing to learn. With correct guidance from our Party members the cloakmakers of Vancouver will be able to carry on and achieve better agreements for the next year.

Other needle trades workers are learning from the cloakmakers. They are looking forward to the time when the Amalgamated Garment Workers' Union will come to Vancouver and organize the remainder of the needle trades in Vancouver and other B.C. cities where there are many Japanese workers employed. Many of the places of employment are real sweatshops. With the support of our Party these workers can be organized and real unity among all the needle trades workers achieved. In this, as in other industries in B.C. the Eighth Convention of our Party will have to give great attention to organization of and unity with the Oriental workers in B.C.

Qualifying for Leaders

TIME and again the people of Alberta have struck out from the old paths like the pioneers of bygone days, and have sought new trails along which they hoped to reach the "west" that has been the dream of millions. But, in spite of its progressive background, the ranks of the common people in Alberta are not united as they should be, and today the forces of reaction are on the offensive in an attempt to defeat any further popular movement of the people to improve their standard of living.

The people of Alberta will once again begin to move, but the manner and the direction in which they will move, will depend upon the leadership provided by our party on all questions agitating the people in the communities. There, the Communists must learn to react quickly to the fast moving developments that are finding their expression even in the most isolated rural ridings.

The failure of the Government to implement its promises to meet the needs of the people, and its lack of political consistency, along with the lack of clarity and perspective against the Social Credit M.L.A.'s is sowing the seed of confusion in the province. The urgent need is for a political leadership that can stand out with a clear political line and program on all issues.

In Alberta we have a fast maturing provincial party leadership, but in the constituencies and main centres, in almost all the rural ridings we have not attained that community leadership that is so vital today. Therefore we must emphasize the training and qualifying of our people to become trusted and beloved citizens of the community in which they live.

It is self evident that we shall never lay the basis for a powerful Alberta people's movement as long as we remain a small sectarian party taken up exclusively with inner party activity, and isolated from the community.

Bigger Than Spain

Let us take a survey of the province upon whose future

our Party should exert such a decisive influence.

In the Province of Alberta there are over 750,000 people. They are scattered over hundreds of towns and villages, and on 100,000 farms and homesteads over an area of $\frac{1}{4}$ million square miles. Our province is 30% larger than all Spain; the homesteads in Peace River in the North are 640 miles removed from the dried out arms of Cypress in the South.

Of these 750,000 Alberta people, 62% are engaged in farming, less than 40% are living in towns and cities with over 500 population; over 20 per cent of the entire population is concentrated in the two cities of Edmonton and Calgary, which have almost equal population.

Sixty per cent of the population of Alberta are of English speaking origin; of the balance of European origin, those of German speaking origin are the most numerous, over 75,000. Of Ukrainian origin there are almost 60,000; of Scandinavian origin over 40,000, and of French origin over 30,000.

Alberta is divided into 53 provincial electoral constituencies. Of these twelve contain almost all the industries, plants, mines, railroad centres, lumber mills, beet factories, packing plants, fishing industries, and the urban blocks of population. These are:

Edmonton, Calgary, Drumheller, Lethbridge, Rocky Mountain, Edmonton, Medicine Hat, Okotoks, High River, Beaver River, Taber, Warner, St. Paul.

Two Thousand Members

Up to date our Party has set up party organizations in 24 out of 53 constituencies, in three of which constituencies, our party organizations have been established during the past four weeks. We have succeeded in establishing contacts in six other constituencies where our party will be established before the Dominion Congress of the Party.

In the 24 constituencies where our Party has been more or less established, we have a total of 2,24 Party branches, and a membership

just over 2,000. Of these, 90 branches, with a total membership of 1,200 are concentrated in 7 constituencies. These are: Edmonton, Calgary, Vermilion, Red Deer, Drumheller, Lethbridge, and Rocky Mountain constituencies.

Our Party membership in Alberta includes 1,000 workers, 900 farmers, 120 women. I have been unable to ascertain the exact picture of the strength of our party in all sections of the people according to their nationality but I do know that our weakness among the large number of German speaking people in this province is something that should cause serious thought.

In very few of these constituencies have we been able to bring our party out as a definite political factor, in the affairs of the locality and in these we have succeeded, only in varying degree. The best examples are: Edmonton, Blair, none, Drumheller, Vermilion.

None of these are models of community activity and leadership by any means. We cannot permit the achievements of these constituencies to blind us to certain real weaknesses in party work, and the style of work of leading party people. We must draw attention to the contrast between the fast growing influence of the party in the Province as a whole and the slow growth of the party membership, and the slow promotion and development of leading people.

Key To Recruiting

One of our main weaknesses in Party recruiting is that we are not specific and prac-

tical enough about it. We speak in general abstractions: "We must recruit thousands and thousands of workers and farmers into the Party." And when this reaches our primary party organizations it remains "thousands and thousands." But then people do not come into our party that way, in "thousands and thousands," they come in one at a time. That is the key to recruiting.

We must stop talking about "masses" abstractly and start talking about people, the people we are going to bring into our party. If we don't know such people, we must learn to find them. Comrade Jensen in the south side of Edmonton is a good example of this. He lives in a very mixed community. For about a year he has concentrated upon becoming acquainted with all the workers in his community; from these he has recruited some 15 people. He wasn't in their union or plant, but they were in his neighborhood, and that was his starting point.

Can we say that the growth of our party such as it is, has been uniform and general throughout all the constituencies of our party. No. The growth of the party membership during the past six months is mainly due to the members recruited in new constituencies. Where our party has been established, for some time, years in some cases, very little growth has been recorded. It seems hard to say it but in some localities, the greatest obstacle to party growth is a party organization in which sectarianism is rife.

Calgary Example

The city of Calgary is probably the gravest example of this situation: no party growth, no life. Let me give you an indication of the cause. Last spring when the civic financing scheme known as the Fortin Plan, was being discussed by almost every citizen in Calgary, and in Alberta for that matter, the Calgary City Committee, that is the leading Communists in the city of Calgary knew nothing about the Fortin Plan.

In other constituencies where the same situation prevails, we find the entire party, in some cases, submerged in "unity" activities (unity activity, mind you, where the Communist Party has been defeated).

A Summary Given to the Alberta Of the Communist By JAMES M Provincial

In another constituency our comrades were in the Social Credit groups, to which they acted as carriers of Party policy, and reported back to the party organization as to the success or otherwise of putting over the party "line." But the role of the party remained a secret to most people.

In some of our industrial constituencies, particularly in the mining fields, where we have fairly strong party organizations, they are submerged in narrow practical trade union activities. There, our comrades show no interest in such party matters as the higher food prices in the coal fields, higher than any other district, or the terrible bruises suffered by children as a result of the stones and rocks strewn over every road and line in the community. Our comrades don't interest themselves in the questions that are agitating the majority of the people in these towns.

Provincial Session

Probably the greatest example, emphasizing this main weakness, was during the June session of the Alberta Legislature, one of the most decisive in its history. For weeks previous to this session the provincial committee issued a call line in the community, and to all progressive people in the province to unite in a demand for practical measures from the government during this session to meet the urgent needs of the people, and thus defeat the offensive of reactionary groups in Alberta. Circulars, leaflets and radio broadcasts were given to this effect. Yet in almost every constituency, the Party organizations looked on admiringly. They had a direct link with their provincial legislature through their own M. L. A., but did nothing about that in the constituency. They forgot the independent role of the party in the community, and worked as if their link with the provincial legislature was merely through the provincial committee of the Communist Party. Only in three constituencies out of 24 did this not apply.

We suggest definite changes. Some we suggest may seem very formal changes, and of an ABC nature, but I believe that where they are adopted and carried out correctly for what they mean, they will actually transform our party especially in the

Train Our New Members

By
E. JOHNSON
(The Pas, Man.)

OUR comrades on reading the speech of Sam Carr, which was delivered at the 12th session of the Central Committee in June 1937, are certain to be impressed by his remarks on the failure of our Party to make the most of its leaders in the branches, wards and constituencies.

Though the leadership of our Party has been aware of

the need of our party members establishing closer contact with community life; though there has been considerable talk of building the "United Front"; the fact remains that the Communist Party is not yet playing the part in the political life of this country that it should. In many communities the word "Communism" or "Communism" is viewed with alarm and our comrades who do venture into these areas to do party work are regarded as at least "queer", if not branded as "foreigners", etc. We must show the people of

these communities that we are really interested in the welfare of the working people and farmers of this country. We can never succeed in doing this as long as we continue isolating ourselves from the people.

Our branch leaders and ward organizers have become in many cases office people, not always of choice but from the necessity of having the routine work attended to. This then results in these leading comrades remaining unknown to the people outside of their party membership. How can we

SEE PAGE SEVEN

Ship in the Community

of the Report Provincial Convention Party of Canada

**McPHERSON
Organizer**

countrywide, from a party of so many sections and committees and numbers, into a party of living active people, beloved in their community and belonging to localities that are distinguishable by names that are familiar to the people, instead of "section numbers."

The great tasks demanded of our party in Alberta call for practical improvements in party mass work, and party organization. The great possibilities for building the party by recruiting thousands of industrial workers and farmers, demand a tremendous improvement in the style of party work, and the rapid development of capable leading people. It is sometimes easier to set up party branches in a farm constituency, than it is to carry out the serious organizational follow-up task of caring for these new people, and assisting them to take their place, and fulfill the task of leadership in their locality. Yet to say like some "we cannot recruit until we improve our party," is not putting the question in the right way. The rapid improvement in party work, and rapid recruiting of new people into the party go hand in hand.

We are entering a great period, with great tasks. How can we utilize this period to the greatest extent so that we can influence the course of events to the greatest degree this fall? How can we utilize this period to the greatest extent, organizationally throughout our Party in Alberta? From the report of Lawrence Anderson, our provincial secretary, we conclude that the following will constitute the decisive factors, influencing the course of events in this critical boiling pot — Alberta.

1. The building of the Communist Party in the constituencies.
2. The building of the circulation of the Clarion in the constituencies.
3. The building of the trade union movement in Alberta.
4. The consolidation of the progressive people's forces through the improvement of party work.

Constituency Basis

We must utilize the present eriod to build and activate ur party organizations throughout the province on a constituency basis, because the

electoral constituencies present the most popular forms, and the best political possibilities for mass party work. This means that all party organizations in the province, shall geographically be based upon the constituencies, and they shall henceforth be known by the name of the constituency in which they operate.

All party branches within these constituencies, shall be known by the locality or the polling sub division in which they operate. Even today we are confronted with reports from party committees, signed thus No. D2, unit 8, section 3. No name, no people, no locality, just a dead hieroglyphic designation, that sometimes reflects the activity of the party organization in that "locality." This we mean to change, as far as party organization is concerned, not by a formal gesture as from a number to a name, but by carrying out the requirements for the building the party on a constituency basis, and transforming the party into a real live political factor in every constituency in Alberta.

Why should we direct our party organizations to the municipal and constituency form of mass party work? Because almost all the problems and questions agitating the farming and urban population, revolve around their municipal councils, the school boards, their hospital boards (or the lack of them), and within the orbit of the constituency, they revolve around their M.L.A. representing them in the provincial legislature.

The most important requirement for building the party on a constituency basis, and extending its influence, is the development of people, living persons, instead of sectarian dead committees; people, tried and devoted to the party, and beloved in their communities; men and women who are familiar with, and take an active interest in, the problems of their communities. Communist leaders, many of whom are already municipal councillors and school board members, can be utilized in mass party work to speak for the party in their community and in the constituency.

Know Your Province

Without these politically clear, devoted, and courageous community Communists who can speak in the language of

the people, all decisions of building the party and extending its influence will only remain empty talk. Every Party organization must become community conscious, then every community will become party conscious.

In all our Party education we must raise slogans that should be reflected in all schools, "Know your Province."

Warm Hearts, Cool Heads

By
J. S. WALLACE

IN Toronto, Ontario and in Truro, Nova Scotia we were brought up in a colony of poor Irish Catholics who were suspected and feared and despised. The tendency was a result was for some of us to cringe and for others to swagger; in both cases we were showing the scars of inferiority.

I sometimes see those same scars in our ranks as Communists. For a long time we have been despised and rejected of men, holding unpopular opinions, swimming against the stream of convention. As a result we have been furtive, many of us, when we haven't been defiant, slinking through our cities like conscious convicts or shaking intellectual fists in the faces of the ignorant. When we have not been waiting for a policeman's hand to fall on our shoulder, we have been carrying a chip there.

So-and-so folds his Clarion carefully so no one will detect its title if he shows it at all in public. He's the Percy type. Puff-and-Blow is his bully brother: everybody in the car can hear him when he says the Mayor and the City Council are a bunch of Big Shots, what this city needs is to clean out the lot and replace them with labor and socialist successors.

Fortunately these exaggerated types are well on the way to extinction. But I feel too much of their memory lingers in the attitude we assume towards our work as Communists.

Without making use of the braggar boasts I have just condemned, we know that we are the salt of the earth, the

ince, "Know your Community." No one should know more about Canada, Alberta and the community than the Communist.

On the other hand in all party publicity, we must raise the slogan "Make the Party known." Let us lead the discussion among the people about the Communist Party.

One word about our inner party life, since it is so intimately bound up with all our community tasks. We are still confronted with the task of changing our inner party life so that the party branches will become real living organizations, instead of the bare they sometimes are. There is still too much complication and unwieldiness throughout much of our party machinery. This can only be overcome by the proper division of work in our party committees, and real improvement in our operative leadership, among organizers and executives.

We must radically change a situation in which we are

confronted with party people too busy in party work to do public work, and leading party trade unionists too busy in trade union work, to do party work in the community.

We can change this by thorough explanation of the role of the party in the community and in all other fields of activity.

Branch Life

The kind of life we want in our party branches and organizations is not the kind that divorces a man from his family and community but the kind that equips him for community work and makes of him a better neighbour, and an outstanding community leader. This means that inner party meetings taking up every Sunday and Saturday evening, every Christmas and New Years day and so on, must be cut out of party activity. We don't want to produce Party freaks, but community people and leaders. It cannot be done that way.

that Canada may be saved.

Here there is no room for arrogance.

We know how much fortune has favored us in giving us the opportunity to come into the Communist Party: we know how much we owe to the obscure heroism as well as the high intelligence that blazed the path for us. And we know how far short we fall, as individuals, of the historic responsibilities imposed on us, however much we bring to the cause of our country and mankind. A proud confidence in our mission, a humility in our attitude to ourselves: these, I think, are present day marks of a good Communist.

There is one other that needs to be stressed.

The Romans said with wonder of the early Christians: "how these Christians love each other!"

To that needs to be said of us, not only of our attitude towards each other, but toward mankind. This was one of the secrets of Abraham Lincoln's support among the masses, expressed by his saying "The Lord must love the common people. He made so many of them." I am not asking for a soupy approach to those in our ranks or those now outside them. But we are fighting not for a clique, not for a type, not for a circle and not, for a strain: in the long run we are fighting for all who share our common humanity. An algebraic formula will prove that capitalism can't work, that Communism must come. But great causes are not won by algebraic formulas: they are won by people whose hearts are warm as their heads are cool.

first citizens of the land. Not because of who we are, but because of what we are: conscious members of the great brotherhood of man. Do we quail before our tasks because we have only two units in our town, one member in its leading factory, or because our vote only numbered hundreds in the last election against the thousands scored by the enemy? No we realize that if we soberly take account of the situation and seriously devote ourselves to our duties the stars in their courses fight on our side. Numerically even now the Communist Party of Canada compares well with the enrolled membership of either the Liberal or Conservative Parties. On a world basis we outstrip all others. Qualitatively there is no basis for comparison. We are the heirs and co-workers of Lenin, of the men who are giving their life work to make the Arctic Sea a Mediterranean for a new humanity, of the youth who are giving the last full measure of devotion in Spain. The walls of the factory are stern and forbidding. The fence around it is cold and cutting. But there is no fortress a Bolshevik cannot storm; the very garrisons are inherently on our side."

Pride Not Arrogance

This should enable us to lift up our heads and go about our work with the quiet conviction of those who know that time and tide, if we make use of them (as we will make use of them), are on our side. This very assurance will go far in helping us reach our goal: that of being the recognized leaders in our communities, not for the sake of our personal advancement, but

The Catholic Syndicates in Quebec

THE labor movement in Quebec suffers from a split in the trade union movement created by the activities of the Catholic Syndicates. The Catholic clergy has done everything in its power to keep the French-Canadian workers isolated from the workers of the rest of Canada. As early as the year 1900 Mgr. Bégin asked the Quebec shoe workers to break with the International and change the Constitution of their union in line of the encyclical *Rerum Novarum* of 1891. At the time of the XIII of the chief points are:

1. The right to organize into associations of trade is a natural right;
2. The right to collective bargaining;
3. The collective contract diminishes competition and is therefore in the best interests of the employers and employees;
4. The right of private property is a natural right and must therefore be respected;
5. Hard conditions forced on a worker by necessity or fear constitute a violence against which all justice protests;
6. The State has the right and duty to intervene in order to exercise a serious surveillance of labor and in order to elaborate labor legislation;
7. "If human society is to be cured it may be only by a return to the life of the institutions of Christianity";
8. Social reform may be accomplished only through moral reform.

Membership Conditions

The organizers of the first groups of the Catholic Unions seem to have completely disregarded the parts of *Rerum Novarum* which deal with justice for the workers and concentrated on looking after their moral life. A chaplain was appointed to look after every Catholic workers' organization. The membership requirements for joining the Corporation Ouvrière de Trois Rivières were:

1. The member must be a Catholic;
2. The member must be a British subject;
3. The member must be over 16 years old;
4. The member must be a worker;
5. The member must be sober;
6. The member must be honest;
7. The member must be a good and efficient workman;
8. No member can belong to an international union.

Strike Funds

In later years, the leadership of the Catholic Syndicates was forced to abandon such qualifications for entrance. When the Catholic workers' organizations throughout the Province were united into a *Confédération de Catholic Workers* at a Convention held at Hull in September 1921, the Constitution adopted was more like the Constitution of other trade unions with the difference of the additional clause which gives the chaplains power to hold up the execution of any measure passed either by the Congress or by any committee

until it is "submitted to the religious authorities and approved by them before being put into force."

A few years later under pressure from the membership the Syndicates agreed to create a strike fund, although strikes for the enforcement of conditions were never too popular with the leadership. Here is what the leaders of the Syndicates Catholic unions were told in the year 1919: "Considering that sympathetic strikes are immoral and harmful to good order in society, the committee on resolutions recommends that the Convention go on record categorically as against sympathetic strikes."

Picketing Opposed

With ideas such as those expressed in the resolution on sympathetic strikes existing among the Syndicate leaders, many of the strikes led by the Catholic unions were lost. The big strike of the Quebec shoe workers which took place in the years 1925-1926 was lost because of the lack of a strike fund. Many other strikes led by the Syndicates were failures due to the absence of picketing, encouraged by the theory of the leaders that a good Catholic should not interfere with a secular because the personal rights of a human being must be respected. However the members

By
FRED ROSE
(Montreal Que.)

of the Syndicates have shown in the last textile strike that, when they are out on strike for better conditions, they mean to protect their jobs by keeping out the scabs. Similar militancy is being displayed by the members of the Syndicates in Sorel, who are now out on strike for the third time in succession. Their leaders have been arrested, but still they fight on. The textile workers who are now back at work and await the decision of an Arbitration Committee speak of another strike if that will be necessary.

Members belonging to the Syndicates can under the guidance of Communists and progressives become a powerful force that will bring the trade union movement closer together, so as to best cooperate in the great task of organizing the unorganized and raising the wage level of the people of our Province to that of the rest of Canada. The new type Syndicate member, who has himself been faced with the united force of the employers and the authorities in Sorel, in St. George, in Drummondville, in Montreal and in Valleyfield, will not tolerate leaders in the

unions who will try to split international unions. The leadership of the Syndicates can find plenty of unorganized industries to tackle.

International Unions

The Communists of Quebec would prefer if the organization of the unorganized in the Province were done by the International unions and therefore our main efforts should be concentrated on building C.I.O. and A.F. of L. united in the Trades and Labor Councils. In these unions the workers find greater democracy to act to improve their lot and are assured better leadership and financial support when they are forced to resort to a strike as a means of enforcing conditions. Unlike the leadership of the Syndicates who advocate corporatism, the leaders of the International unions stand for democracy. In the A.F. of L. and C.I.O. united, the French-Canadian workers are brought closer to the workers of other nationalities, closer to their brothers and sisters throughout Canada as well as in the U.S.A. Experience lately has shown that in a number of cases the French-Canadian workers prefer the International Unions to the Syndicates. Even Cardinal Villeneuve and Archbishop Gauthier could not convince the thousands of Montreal dress-

makers that they should have nothing to do with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. The bid of the Syndicates for the Montreal longshoremen proved a failure, while in the course of this same period nearly 5,000 of them joined the International. The paper workers of Three Rivers went out on strike to defend their right to belong to the International.

The French-Canadian workers are not possessed of the narrow nationalism of certain sections of the middle class.

Basis in Small Towns

Many a French-Canadian weaver, warper or loom fixer has worked in the textile plants of New England. The French-Canadian longshoreman knows that it is in his interest to be linked up with the waterfront workers of New York, Baltimore and Boston. The aluminum workers of Arvida and the housewives of Hamilton, Sydney and Toronto work for the same employers as they do and that it is therefore in their interest to belong to the same organization.

It would however be wrong to imagine that there is no basis for the Syndicates in our Province. In the small industrial towns, the Catholic Unions will predominate for a long time to come. It is therefore essential that we have a positive approach towards the Syndicates, the leaders of which have shown during the textile strike a great willingness to cooperate with the International unions. Such collaboration should be encouraged by the Communists and progressives in the Syndicates and in the International unions. An understanding not to encroach on each other's territory can be arranged.

Cooperation Needed

The hatred of the Syndicates that existed among the International Union leaders is gradually disappearing. During the textile strike a resolution of sympathy with the aspirations of the strikers was passed. With greater numbers of militant members in the Syndicates, it should be possible to steer the International unions in the direction of united action with the International Unions so that they may jointly work for higher wages, for the abolition of the territorial speed-up system employed in the various industries and for a life that will give the workers of Quebec the means and time to also raise their cultural level. United action for such a purpose was justified by Pius X and no one has the right to oppose it. In *Singulari Quadam Pius X* said: "We do not deny that it may be permitted to Catholics, if every precaution is taken, to work for the common good with non-Catholics, to bring the worker a better lot, to arrive at more just organization of wages and work, and for every other useful and honest end."

The Lower Fraser Valley

L. F. Carr
(Surrey Section, B.C.)

THE Lower Fraser Valley in British Columbia furnishes our Party Section with many varied political and organizational problems. For clarity I will sub-divide the population into groups:

- (a) A large number of sawmill workers.
- (b) Hundred of gilt-nail fishermen.
- (c) Numerous small pensioners (owing to the easy climate).
- (d) The large acreage farmers.
- (e) The small acreage farmers.
- (f) The Oriental owner and renter.

These groupings give one a fair understanding of the division of interests.

The success of establishing our Party's leadership is determined by the activity of the comrades themselves, the personality of the local leadership, the practicality of every program proposed. Good programs necessitate accurate knowledge and political judgment.

Trained Leadership

The devoting of time to the training of branch leadership is

tantamount to success; the organizing of classes for such purposes should be part of every section's activities.

Experience has taught us that Party Branch must overcome the misconception that the Communist Party is only a conspiratorial group. Recognition won by the examples of good community work of public use and interest is the key to winning the confidence of people. Good judgment in supporting the best candidates for councils, school boards and so forth wins confidence in our members' judgment, winning the support of more and more people by proof of our analytical knowledge.

Local Needs

Communists gain recognition by dint of hard consistent work, by superior knowledge, by being human-interested in the little things, willing to learn from anyone, analyzing with anybody their particular problems, remembering that Communists are "made" not born, and that Communists "are of the people," that everything human is of concern to us.

Never adopt a defeatist attitude; it reflects itself immediately in lack of confidence,

and results in inability to persuade people. It is every member's task to win support for our program, then will come recognition and public acceptance.

Develop the park in your area. Fight for the needs of these who are in distress. Campaign on the cause for better schools, health and necessary roads; expose any useless expenditures of taxpayers' money, take a keen interest in all public matters and be well informed on the current matters of interest in your community.

Hold occasional youth drives, or house parties for the Party, the first few may be hard to get spontaneous success, but support will be gained.

Have the leading comrades most well known to the large and larger numbers of people, their influence is very often underestimated. Enlarging and varying our activities as the conditions permit, has been our guide in our work. Remember "life" is our guide, learn how to interpret opportunities into additional or propaganda issues, study the experience of other Parties, and thus become a better Bolshevik. Our greatest weakness is lack of developed cadres; work, read, study are the slogans for success.

REMEMBER THE DEADLINE!

The Final Date for Resolutions
TO THE

VIII Dominion Convention of the Communist Party of Canada

IS

September 25th.

Build the Clarion Circulation by Canvassing

By **L. McMurray**
(Toronto)

TORONTO offers particular fertile ground for Clarion canvassing work since our paper, its policies and our party personalities are particularly well known here to vast strata of people.

A more agreeable task than canvassing with the Clarion is hard for me to think of.

Every house or store is new and pleasant experience if you know how to handle it. How is this one going to turn out? Is he Canadian, English, Jewish, Ukrainian or what? Veteran or not, trade unionist or not, what's his trade, his views, his interests? How can I get him interested before getting down to brass tacks?

Practice Best Teacher

After a few weeks canvassing you get so you can handle them with ease and pleasure. Here's obviously an English storekeeper, quite comfortably fixed it seems — you know

how to get his attention easily by now. "I suppose as an Englishman you are interested in a Labor Party" — nine times out of ten you've got his attention. Then you've got to find his weaknesses, he's all for the King, but he decries chain stores, or graft or Hepburn attacks on the trade union. You steer clear of his misconceptions for a while — find common ground — gently ease him into the knowledge that he is talking to a "red." You come politely back to say differences of opinion — point out how you can work together and get his daily, twice weekly or weekly subscription or at least sell him a paper and note him as another prospect.

And so on down the line. It's interesting work when you work scientifically at it. Learn the wages Imperial Oil pays in Toronto, Winnipeg, Montreal, Chicago — New York. And always — how it fits the Rockefeller's make out of it — tell the Toronto or

Winnipeg gas station attendant how much his company pays elsewhere, how much other companies pay — you'll get his attention — and you'll get information as well — and here and there a sub for the Clarion.

I count the number of insulting people I've met on the road. The pleasant talks, the encouragement I've received would fill ten books. People like to talk, especially if you know something they find interesting to hear. And you can learn how to win them. You can learn how to co-operate with them, how to win them.

The number of indifferent ones you meet are still great but hardly one of them can't be cracked if you can judge quickly and have something for every type. Here's a religious crank out and out. He may start on his theme but get off it to some other topic, his trade or something, tell him something interesting about it, keep away from his religious views. You will get some results out of a percentage of them and definitely affect some of the others.

Teach by Example

I feel that in every locality the best canvassers should go out separately with those who want to begin canvassing. They should approach the quick manoeuvres, the little sayings that catch attention, note the words people use to express their likes and dislikes. Learn them not to argue but how to search out common views.

I find it advisable not to waste too much time with people who want to argue or who are cranks. Spend the time chiefly with those who have got a good chance of convincing.

Canvassers should prepare answers to a lot of common objections and try them out, see if they satisfy, if not change them. Then you'll succeed just like a practiced checker player does. "The trouble is there's too many unemployed bums who won't work unless they get cut off wages" — they should be cut off relief — says an employed small householder. "You would not want any of them going around to your house and offering to work for less than you do, would you? Don't you agree that the unemployed should not work for less than the going rate? It's your responsibility. You should help them organize for your own sake." I've personally found that answer makes many take the unemployed seriously.

But there is not much chance of convincing the voters of the party membership in any locality that Clarion canvassing is interesting work unless the party leadership in that locality properly participates in the organization and the actual canvasses.

Results are Proof

This has been proven in

Toronto by regular Monday and Friday night canvasses. They have proven successful only in those wards where the leadership went out with the canvassers. Ward 2 got 136 readers in 7 weeks, ward 3, 273 readers, ward 1 and 8 combined 50 readers. The regularity of the canvasses is not enough in itself. It is when leading comrades come out and canvass that substantial results are obtained.

It is my opinion that every locality 50 party members can secure 20 new readers a week at the present time if the leadership makes it a duty to help canvass each week at a definite time.

Not all will stick naturally

but a steady increase will take place and re-canvassing can again secure many of the dropped readers.

Canvassing has lots of members of mass organizations and trade unions, which are properly approached for their membership lists is a certain guarantee of a high percentage of new steady readers.

A very important organizational step to guarantee regular activity of the whole party membership is building the Clarion in election in every branch of a press agent and a regular weekly or bi-weekly meeting with the section organizer and the party manager of all the branch agents in the section.

Train Our New Members

FROM PAGE FOUR

expect to secure support for an organization of which the local representatives are not known in the community? It is true that many of our party leaders on the provincial executives and the central committee are known to the people, but what is required is not an acquaintance with the outstanding leaders but a personal contact between the branch and ward leaders and the people of the community. This can only be done by our comrades taking an active part in the life of the people, by making their interests our interests.

The correct utilization of our comrades has been greatly neglected in the past and our organizational secretary, comrade Sam Carr, in his address has emphasized not only the need of properly developing new comrades but of continuing the training of our leading comrades. Our movement is young and confronted with great tasks to be accomplished with too few forces. Our party in the past has allowed comrades to go ahead and attempt work in a more or less independent fashion in fields perhaps entirely unsuited to them.

Concentrate Forces

Great credit is due to our party comrades for the way in which they will take hold of any problem and attempt to overcome the difficulties. Our movement is not going ahead as it should and it will not do so till we begin to conduct it in a business-like fashion. For efficiency and for the proper utilization of our forces we can learn a great deal from the capitalists. We fail to plan our work. The Communist Party has tremendous ideas ahead of it and are many fields in which we should be doing work but we lack the comrades necessary to do the work. Till we have the capable comrades developed for all these fields of work we should confine ourselves to the fields for which we have the capable comrades and which are most important. We gain nothing by spreading our forces thinly over too many fields and we are liable to receive a setback, which will be hard to overcome later.

Our movement is a great co-operative organization with the task of leading the working class in its struggles for emancipation. To carry out our task it is necessary that we cease playing at this work. Our work must be planned according to the forces available and we must continue to utilize properly our comrades at the same time not neglecting the development of both our leaders and new comrades, so that our work may be better carried on in the present fields of activity, and extended into new areas.

Clarion Advertising

By **W. Smith**
(Toronto)

The capitalist press maintains itself, pays high salaries to certain of their staff and in most cases, good fair dividends to stockholders and owners.

The Clarion pays no dividends to anyone and to maintain itself calls upon the active class for thousands of dollars every year.

This vast difference between the financial upkeep of the two, and the relative financial solidity of the capitalist press is bridged by two magical words, "advertising" and "circulation." We do not propose to grapple with circulation in this article but to see what advertising can do for the Clarion.

It is within the power of the readers of our paper to build up the advertising and with it the finances of the Clarion, at least to relieve the terrible financial burden imposed upon it and perhaps to maintain it exclusively. To achieve this, every reader must become a member of the Clarion staff, work as hard on this work as upon other work, become intensely active selling ads to the storekeepers and dealers with whom they do business and write constantly to the larger advertisers who do advertise in it's columns.

If every reader who attended a show in Toronto made it his or her job to constantly remind the manager as they pass in or out that he should be advertising in the Daily Clarion, within a year we could have a theatre section that would pay the entire wages of the staff. If Clarion readers, working in Ward groups, contacted and sold one hundred small stores in Toronto two inches of advertising space per day they would not only pay for the upkeep of the paper by raising \$42,000 per year but would bring in \$14,000 a

year to their Wards and organizations in commissions. By pledging themselves to buy from Clarion advertisers they would make it possible for the advertising department to lay down proof of the control of \$12,000,000 in merchandising income before the manufacturer and his agent, which would enable us to circulate on the same basis as the 200,000 circulations of the large Dailies.

How You Can Help

You may say: "If these are facts, why has not the advertising department done this?" First, neither this or the ad departments of the big dailies have a staff big enough to do an one-fiftieth of the retail stores mentioned; second, the large theatre chains, manufacturers, and advertising agents claim, with some justification, that the Clarion readers and other readers of other dailies and newspapers so placed is merely repetition; third, they are not going to advertise in the Clarion until they have to, and they won't have to until such time as Clarion readers act as one man, buying those things we advertise, going or refraining to go to stores as decided and showing their lively interest in the advertising by writing to advertisers and buying their goods.

By mobilizing the words and actions of retail storekeepers we not only get the revenue so desired but bring in new readers and sympathizers from a group that should be brought closer to us, the small storekeeper. These are people on whom we can find donations in our financial drives; they will give more freely when they get the increasing returns and money that they lay out. When advertising shows results when the readers buy from the advertiser he can be increasingly larger ads and be made into a permanent advertiser in the paper.

Our Experiences in Establishing The Montreal Youth Centre

By R. Kent Rowley
(Montreal, Que.)

IN Montreal the problem has been to transform our narrow sectarian movement of three hundred odd members into a broad youth movement, understanding the difficulties of youth and corresponding to their needs. We have made headway, albeit slight.

Firstly, we have opened a Youth Centre. Straining every effort we scraped together our slender resources and financed the venture; we conducted a financial drive for \$500, enlisting the support of every available youth with punch, and made a success of it. In the drive, we began to realize the actual possibilities that do exist to gain the interest of young people in things that they understand and that we appreciate — a centre where we can play ping-pong, where we can meet friends to discuss life with all the directness of youth, where we can organize baseball teams, camera clubs, radio circles, knitting bees, singing groups (let us not call them choirs), a place where the branches of the Y. C. L. can meet in cleanliness and comfort and open the meetings with music and song, instead of sitting three on a chair in a dirty room with one burnt-out light, a choking atmosphere, and a family confab in the hall. There are party members who can contribute honest endeavour without discomfort and who look with disfavor on our advance towards a youthful movement.

but let us be sure that in our new Youth Centre in Montreal we have a better and more intelligent youth than we ever had in the old hole-and-corner days.

Youthful Branches

Corresponding to this development, our branches are endeavouring to broaden their character. We insist upon not only politically-correct but also youthfully-interesting lectures and have found that one of the most successful lectures has been that given by a Y. C. L.er who knows something of television. We have found that we must not drag speeches on to midnight, at which hour in the past we have burnt not only electricity but also enthusiasm. We try to abolish as much as possible tedious discussions on dues, on press, on contacts, and all the paraphernalia of a section or group who is trying to hunt, out heretics. We do not have our district executive hand down decisions for weekly activity. We ask the young people to feel themselves what they feel is most suitable and we give leadership, direct their activity along intelligent channels. The branch executives are responsible for planning the work of our branches, and these can become most important bodies. Through them we can develop leadership and responsibility. Members of the executive of a branch are in charge of direct activities, e.g., finances, membership, press, literature, sports, etc. To this we add where possible an industrial director, responsible particularly

for union activities. In this fashion, we can call to an executive meeting various groups of members to discuss their particular field of activity and how it can be bettered; we can take up the technical problems of the branch; and we can see to it that the branch interests are carefully followed. Thereby, we have an organization that is broad enough to invite young people in and at the same time with sufficient direction to turn the attention of our rank-and-file members to the main problems of the youth.

Unite Labor Youth

Undoubtedly we must strive to link up the branch activities more closely with industrial developments. Young people in the shops and factories are demonstrating their militancy in mass strikes in the major industries throughout the province. The Y.C.L. still tends towards inner activity and does not react sufficiently to the wave of struggle in the Cuthbert strike of the steel union we did give some slight assistance in the form of sandwiches on the picket line. In the recent dress strike, our few Y.C.L.ers were active workers; and some of our members are working individually in the organization of new unions. But our trade union committee still has the problem of bringing the Y.C.L. as a whole more actively into the chain of organizing youth, and will campaign upon the issues of higher wages, better conditions in the shops, union organization, and the maintenance

of peace. Such a movement, even on a modest scale, should open up the possibility of unity with other labor youth groups, e.g., the C.G.Y., M. the Young Circle League, etc., would meet the requirements of those young people who are turning towards the path of progressive action. This is the prospect we have in mind as a means of consolidating the youth clubs which we have built and as a means of strengthening our fight to organize young people into the trade union movement.

Our slight experience in the past few months in the Youth Congress Movement, in the unions, and particularly the building of young people's progressive clubs has indicated to us that a great sentiment exists for action on youth needs, and we are aware further that certain leaders of the growing trade union movement have expressed the need for a real labor party to fight against the growing reaction of the Duplessis regime and to champion people's needs. Surely, then, it would be correct to broaden the scope of our youth movement and direct our attention towards the problem of uniting the young people in a labor youth movement — possibly connected with a future labor party which will bring together all the various progressive youth clubs, particularly that exist among the chain-smoking youth, and will campaign upon the issues of higher wages, better conditions in the shops, union organization, and the maintenance

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French-Canadian Youth

We are weak in that we have not yet found a solution to the problems of organizing the French-Canadian youth, despite the political ferment which exists among an aroused youth that is clearly disgusted with the treachery of Duplessis. This is perhaps due to the fact that we have not an organized corps of young French comrades consistently on the job. Our French Y.C.L. has not been replaced by a broader movement. The District secretary of the Y. C. L. is charged with the task, therefore of organizing fairly an adequate youth leadership in the French field and secondly of turning its attention to a problem of slowly and patiently building the framework of a movement that will correspond to the needs of the hour, by bringing together young French people who are searching for a way out of their present conditions.

Adult Leaders Can Help Youth Movement

By MAURICE RUSH
(B.C. Secretary, Y.C.L.)

ONE year ago the Young Communist League, as a national organization reached a low point in its work. Its membership became very small, and its effectiveness very limited. I wish to deal in this article with the present stage of the League — a period in which the Y.C.L. is rapidly finding its feet and making a name for itself among Canadian youth.

While the conditions exist for our League to reach greater heights than ever before in the coming year, there are a number of features of our Party work among youth that must be eliminated if we are to take full advantage of these circumstances.

The Party is the vanguard of the people. As such it must be rooted among the decision-makers of the people. Youth in the party with the assistance of the whole party, has the task of winning the young generation to accept the leadership of our Party.

The idea that some young comrades hold that once they have left the League for special Party work, to return to the Y.C.L. and general youth

work means demotion, must be rooted out, for youth work is on the same level as other Party work.

Adult Leaders Help

A practice that can be and in many cases is carried to the extreme, is party recruiting from the Y.C.L. It seems that the recruiting drive of the Y.C.L. branches are found to be splendid poaching grounds. In the last recruiting drive in B.C., almost half Y. C. L. branch memberships were recruited into the Party. There are cases of attempts to recruit 15 and 16-year old Y.C.L.ers because they were active in their Y.C.L. branch. This is necessary for every Y.C.L. member or even active member to be in the Party. Only dues payments to the Party are increased in this manner, not the Party's effectiveness in youth work.

Leadership is of decisive importance to the transformation of the League into a mass organization for young people.

However, many young people, who have been in the League for years, and who have had a wealth of experience, quite often, when they reach an age about 26 or 27, feel that they have grown too

old for the League. They begin to think about leaving youth work completely and taking up other Party work. We must learn the lesson that youth organizations are not built by the older people leaving the movement. These older comrades are a valuable asset to the development of youth work. In their branches they are a stabilizing and important influence. The numerous church youth organizations and many other powerful youth movements have been built up by older people being in the branches and clubs of their respective organizations. Rather than have Party members leave the League when they reach their late twenties, our Party should assign leading duty people to work with Y.C.L. branches in each locality.

The assignment of such people by units and sections to Y.C.L. branches would help solve the greatest problem of the League, the lack of a branch initiative and above all leadership.

Unions and Youth

I would like to say a few words about trade union work among young people. For some time we have been saying that we cannot have a blueprint

for youth work among the industrial youth. And as a result, in many places the trade union work of the League has remained nothing more than "we can't have a blueprint."

The drive for unionization and the economic trends of the day have resulted in ever larger numbers of youth being employed in the most basic industries, and have started an influx of young people into trade unions. When we realize the situation then we can proceed to the understanding of the need to develop youth work and to build the Y.C.L. among the industrial youth, for the joint purpose of building the trade union movement and of making the union the community centre for the varied activities of youth.

Experience has taught us a lesson. That lesson is that where youth work is left to the hands of the Party it is not done. This is unfortunate but, with very few exceptions, it is true. The Y.C.L. has no responsibility for youth work. Therefore I propose the setting up of Y.C.L. groups where necessary. The group will function in close collaboration with the Party unit and will facilitate work among the

industrial youth. What will be the nature of the work of such a Y.C.L. group?

The task of the Y.C.L. group would be to use the means and means of introducing activities into the union that will win the youth for their union. The sooner we agree to say that the sooner we will be able to boost a labor sports movement, of labor cultural clubs and so on.

The experience of the League in the U.S.A. has established beyond the shadow of doubt the fact that at the present stage of development both in Canada and the U.S.A., in so far as the Party and youth work are concerned, that there is still the need for Y.C.L. groups for work among industrial youth.

If, in my opinion, we agree that such can be the method whereby youth work may be introduced into the union activities, then we can proceed to say that the Y.C.L. blueprint for our work; that we may take the form of a sports and cultural club, a social club or any other means for solidifying the union movement, the union, building their union, and imbuing them with a progressive ideology.